

trees. Pond Pine Woodland occurs near the outer edges of the pocosin where organic peats are shallower. The moderate canopy is dominated by large pond pines (*Pinus serotina*) to 1.5 feet in diameter. Loblolly bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*) is prominent in the canopy. The dense shrub layer is dominated by fetterbush while the herb layer is sparse or absent.

Wet Pine Flatwoods occurs on wet sandy soil that often dries out in the latter stages of the growing season. The Wet Spodosol Variant occurs on sterile sands of spodosol soil. The moderately open to moderately dense canopy of mature trees is dominated by longleaf pine, sometimes with pond pine as a co-dominant. The moderate shrub layer is variously dominated by dwarf huckleberry (*Gaylussacia dumosa*), blue huckleberry (*G. frondosa*), dwarf wax-myrtle (*Morella pumila*), southern blueberry (*Vaccinium tenellum*), and inkberry (*Ilex glabra*). The moderately dense ground layer is dominated by Carolina wiregrass (*Aristida stricta*), with deer's-tongue (*Carphephorus odoratissimus*) and bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum* var. *pseudocaudatum*) subdominant. Other important plants in the ground layer are creeping blueberry (*Vaccinium crassifolium*), pyxie-moss (*Pyxidantha barbulate* var. *barbulata*), and silkgrass (*Pityopsis graminifolia* var. *latifolia*).

The natural communities in the natural area are greatly affected by the frequency and intensity of fires. Canopy density and tree size appear to be functions of fire frequency, particularly in the pocosin communities, with pines becoming larger and denser during long intervals without fire. Much of the pocosin habitat was burned by the 1986 wildfire, which eliminated canopy trees over large areas. The large expanse of pocosin is important for many animals, and provides critical home range habitat for the black bear (*Ursus americanus*). Wet Pine Flatwoods habitat and adjacent Pond Pine Woodlands are critical home territory for the Endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. Managed timberlands provide an important migration corridor for some groups of animals southward to Holly Shelter Game Land.

MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION: Wherever possible, ditches should be plugged or filled to allow restoration of natural ground water levels. Fire should be allowed to burn into and through the pocosin whenever possible to reduce the fuel load and decrease the potential for catastrophic fire.

NATURAL COMMUNITIES: Low Pocosin, High Pocosin, Pond Pine Woodland, Wet Pine Flatwoods Wet Spodosol Variant*.

RARE PLANTS: Venus flytrap (*Dionaea muscipula*)*, white wicky (*Kalmia cuneata*)*.

RARE ANIMALS: red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*)*.

*Not known from Duplin County at this site.

REFERENCES:

- LeBlond, R.J. 1998. Site survey report: Angola Bay Game Land. N.C. Natural Heritage Program, Division of Parks and Recreation, DEHNR, Raleigh, N.C.
- LeBlond, R.J. 2000. Natural areas inventory of International Paper lands in southeastern North Carolina. N.C. Natural Heritage Program, Division of Parks and Recreation, DENR,